

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 174525
ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OIC-02 SIG-03 /116 R

DRAFTED BY PM/DCA:MARIETTI:SES
APPROVED BY PM:JKAHAN
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-----098938 120503Z /64

P 111948Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174525

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCHDEMARCHEON SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

1. FRENCH EMBOFF LAUREAU CALLED ON PM/DCA OFFICER ARIETTI
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PAGE 02 STATE 174525

JULY 11 TO MAKE FOLLOWING DEMARCHE CONCERNING PROCEDURE
FOR SELECTING ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE ON DISARMA-
MENT (CD).

2. LAUREAU RECALLED THAT AT SSOD IT WAS AGREED THAT CD
WOULD CONSIST OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES AND 32 TO 35 OTHER
MEMBERS. SSOD PRESIDENT MOJSOV HAD INDICATED IN HIS

CLOSING SPEECH THAT ALL CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE CCD WOULD BECOME MEMBERS OF THE CD. FRANCE AGREED WITH THIS APPROACH.

3. HOWEVER, PROCESS OF SELECTION OF ADDITIONAL 5-8 MEMBERS REMAINS UNCLEAR. MOJSOV HAS PROPOSED INFORMALLY THAT THE FOUR NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES (PRC IS NOT EXPECTED TO TAKE ITS CD SEAT) DECIDE ON THE NEW MEMBERS. ALTERNATIVELY, THE UK HAS SUGGESTED THAT CONTACT GROUPS, CONSISTING OF THE FOUR NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES AND SELECT NON-ALIGNED STATES, MEET IN GENEVA TO DECIDE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS. FRANCE OPPOSES BOTH SUGGESTIONS SINCE THEY VIOLATE THE TENET OF EQUALITY OF ALL STATES WHICH IS AN ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF THE NEW CD.

4. FRANCE PREFERS THAT THE HEADS OF THE UN REGIONAL GROUPS MEET WITH MOJSOV IN NEW YORK AND SEEK TO REACH CONSENSUS ON NUMBER AND COMPOSITION OF ADDITIONAL CD MEMBERS. PRIOR TO SUCH A MEETING, MEETINGS OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DISCUSS THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION.

5. LAUREAU ADDED THAT FRANCE IS FLEXIBLE ON THE QUESTIONS OF HOW MANY AND WHICH STATES WOULD BE CHOSEN. SEVERAL STATES HAVE ALREADY APPROACHED FRANCE SEEKING SUPPORT FOR THEIR CANDIDACY BUT PARIS HAS REPLIED THAT ISSUE NEEDS TO BE TAKEN UP IN REGIONAL GROUPS.
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PAGE 03 STATE 174525

6. AS FINAL POINT, LAUREAU STATED THAT METHOD OF SELECTING ADDITIONAL MEMBERS FOR THE CD WAS SEEN IN PARIS AS AN INDICATION OF ACTUAL END OF SUPERPOWER DOMINANCE OF DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATING BODY AND WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT OF FRANCE'S DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BODY.

7. IN RESPONSE, ARIETTI STATED THAT US THINKING ON THIS ISSUE WAS IN PRELIMINARY STAGES. FRENCH DEMARCHE WAS VERO TIMELY AND US WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER FRENCH PROPOSAL AND GIVE REPLY IN THE FUTURE. (FYI: LAUREAU IS RETURNING TO PARIS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AND INDICATED HE DOES NOT SEEK IMMEDIATE US REACTION.) CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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